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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,111	09/24/2003	Timothy W. Hill	S247 1020.1	7181

7590 03/14/2007
WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE
P.O. Box 7037
Atlanta, GA 30357-0037

EXAMINER

BEAUCHAINE, MARK J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/14/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/670,111

Applicant(s)

HILL ET AL.

Examiner

Mark J. Beauchaine

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-16 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/18/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

After further consideration claims pending in the instant application stand rejected as explained below. Accordingly, the statement for the indication of allowable subject matter of Office action dated 14 September 2006 is hereby withdrawn.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number 5,746,322 by LaVeine et al ("LaVeine") in view of Patent Number US 6,484,884 B1 by Gerrity et al ("Gerrity"). The article cleaning device disclosed by LaVeine comprises first and second shelf portions 24 and 26 (see Figure 1) that are portions of an elongated tray assembly and are arranged at first and second heights, vibration means 18 for vibrating both the first and second shelf portions to cause articles

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on said shelf portions to be conveyed along said shelf portions (see column 3, lines 12-15).

Said shelf portions being perforated by apertures 36 of transverse dimensions smaller than a predetermined minimum diameter of articles to be handled by the device. Foreign matter of transverse dimensions smaller than the perforations can fall through said perforations. Both of said first and second shelf portions have upstream and downstream ends and are arranged in series with one another whereby articles fall from the downstream end of said first shelf portion to tumble downwards to lie on the upstream portion of said second shelf portion and then to fall from the downstream end of said second shelf portion to an outlet and collected. Foreign objects that have fallen through said perforations are collected (see column 2, lines 18-20).

LaVeine fails to disclose said cleaning device as processing coins. Gerrity teaches a coin cleaning device which cleans and conveys coins over a perforated shelf/tray assembly (see Figure 3 and column 13, lines 30-39 and column 16, lines 22-26) for the purpose of separating foreign matter from a bulk of coins. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the article cleaning device of LaVeine to the coin-cleaning operation of Gerrity for the purpose of separating foreign matter from a bulk of coins.

Laveine fails to disclose a machine cabinet configuration. Gerrity teaches a machine cabinet (see Figure 1), hopper 1604 and coin feeder 1402 housed within said cabinet (see Figures 1 and 3), coin discriminator and coin value summation means (see column 1, line 65 through column 2, line 6) housed within said cabinet for the purpose of

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processing articles separated from foreign matter. Said cabinet comprises front, rear and top walls. Said hopper is disposed towards said rear wall and said tray assembly is disposed toward said front wall. An aperture is formed in said top wall in a position towards the front of said cabinet. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the article cleaning device of LaVeine into the cabinet configuration of Gerrity for the purpose of processing articles separated from foreign matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 and 17 are allowed. Claims are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

mjb



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